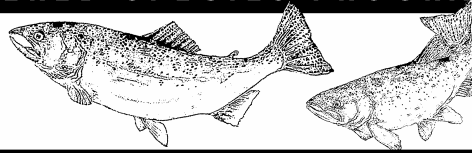


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June 2005



Clark County Commissioner Betty Sue Morris introduces the 2005 Sammy Award Winners.

A Big Turnout at the Sammy Awards

A crowd of over 150 people attended the Fifth Annual Clark County Sammy Awards. The awards ceremony was held May 12 at the Water Resources Education Center in Vancouver. Clark County commissioners presented seven recipients with awards for their contributions to salmon recovery in Clark County. Bill Wilkerson, executive director of the Washington Forest Protection Association was the keynote speaker at the event.

Why are the Sammy Awards important? As Commissioner Morris said: "We believe the Sammy Awards are important because they encourage these individual efforts, showcasing the activities that deserve to be emulated. By holding these people up as examples, we believe that others are also inspired to get involved, and this will ultimately improve conditions for salmon."

Attendees of the event enjoyed live music performed by the Evergreen High School Jazz Trio. Each honoree was presented with a beautiful hand-made metal salmon sculpture by local artist Orlando Cox. This year's recipients are:

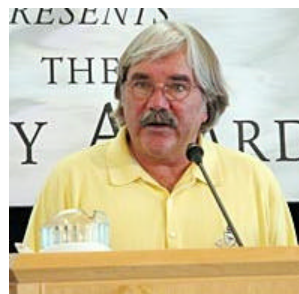
Firefighters Hatchery

Two decades ago, a group of firefighters now with the Vancouver Fire Department set up a small hatchery in response to a call for help in restoring local fish populations. Not long after this volunteer project began the firefighters chose to actively

involve primary school students in the release of the fry. According to third grade teacher Gail Stuenkel, the field trip with the firefighters is the trip the students look forward to the most during the school year. Firefighters Mike Senchyna, Curt Anderson, and others also visit the school to help students learn about the salmon life cycle and understand the importance of local tributaries to the survival of fish. Thanks to the firefighters, Maple Grove school, and the hatchery property owner, Dr. Robert Nicol, students are developing the knowledge about salmon that is key to the long-term survival of these fish.

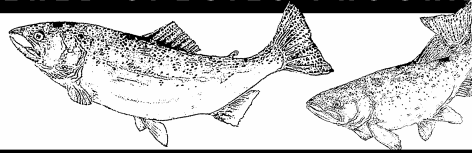
Mill Creek Forest Homeowners Association

When David Gilroy and his neighbors originally moved into their homes near the Washington State University Campus, the unnamed creek and wetlands of their commons area was choked with blackberries and assorted debris. Twelve families joined together to form the Mill Creek Forest Homeowners Association to restore the commons area back to its natural state. They replaced huge quantities of blackberry brambles with native vegetation and removed truckloads of debris including a silt fence in and along the creek. Benefits of the restoration were soon apparent as streamside erosion subsided and more wildlife was observed in the restored habitat. With one reported salmon sighting, David Gilroy and his neighbors are hopeful that their efforts will contribute to a return of fish to these waters.



Keynote speaker Bill Wilkerson

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Tel: (360)397-2022 • www.saveoursalmon.comLower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB) was established in 1998 by state law to restore salmon, steelhead, and other fish species in the lower Columbia listed under the Endangered Species Act to healthy, harvestable levels. Last December, the Board completed the first regional recovery plan for salmon and steelhead in the Pacific Northwest. Governor Gary Locke presented the plan to National Marine Fisheries Service, which will officially adopt the plan. Putting the plan together required extraordinary coordination and cooperation among the many entities involved, including private citizens; tribal members; local, state and federal agencies; and various interest groups. It took about six years and more than 200 meetings to develop the science-based plan. The plan is a blueprint for better coordination of salmon recovery efforts. Thanks to the LCFRB, individuals and groups acting to save fish can be more confident of the results, knowing that many others are also doing their part.



Bill Dygert receives a Sammy Award on behalf of LCFRB from Commissioner Steve Stuart.

Dan Balch

As an avid fisherman, Dan Balch wants to ensure others can also continue to enjoy the thrill of catching salmon. Mr. Balch likes to take his grandchildren and great-grandchildren to fish at

some of the same spots along the Lewis River where he fished as a boy. An original member of Fish First, Dan spends many volunteer hours working on fish and habitat restoration projects. He helps with the nutrient enhancement program, putting salmon carcasses back into the stream, and he oversees the net pen projects at Echo Park and at Lake Merwin. Whether he's helping to hatch fry at remote site incubators or organizing volunteer work parties, Dan Balch is always ready to contribute his time, knowledge, and talent in an effort to promote salmon recovery.

USFW & PacTrust

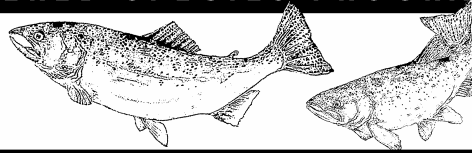
When the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Vancouver office moved into the Columbia Tech Center last June, landscaping outside the building had not been established. Fish and wildlife staff saw an opportunity: why not set an example by landscaping with salmon friendly native vegetation? They proposed the idea to PacTrust, the center's property management company. Despite initial reservations, PacTrust agreed to give it a try. Fish and Wildlife employees and their families volunteered to do the planting themselves. Employees also brought in snags and root balls from the field to complete the landscape plan, which was designed for free by Bosky Dell Natives of West Linn, Oregon. Landscaping with native plants instead of lawns reduces the use of pesticides and fertilizers that can end up in our streams and rivers. US Fish and Wildlife and PacTrust are showing others in the community what can be done to keep our waterways cleaner for salmon.

Robert J. Darling

For many decades, cattle wandered freely through the section of Mill Creek that runs through the Darling Farm, once one of the largest dairy operations in Clark County. Mr. Darling contacted Clark Public Utilities to restore riparian habitat along the creek he used to explore as a child. As a result, the creekside has been replanted with more than 30,000 native plants and trees. Large woody debris and spawning gravel has been added to the creek to enhance fish habitat. The creek's original

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meander pattern was determined and reestablished. Mr. Darling also set aside and fenced 26 acres of habitat to keep the beef cattle currently grazing the site away from the creek. By dedicating such a large portion of his property for salmon habitat, Robert Darling has done a great service for his community.



Commissioner Marc Boldt with Sammy Winner Dan Balch

Wood's Landing

Wood's Landing is one of the last three remaining natural spawning grounds for chum salmon in the Lower Columbia River basin. Of the four parcels that make up the Woods Landing Preservation Project, three have been conserved through major efforts of the Erskine Biddle Wood family, the Columbia Land Trust, and other community partners. The fourth parcel, however, was proposed to be subdivided and developed. But in February, 2004, the owners of the 4.5 acre parcel gave the Wood family one year to secure a funding package to purchase it. The Woods family spearheaded a grass-roots fundraising effort and met with local, regional, state, and national leaders to generate support for acquiring the parcel. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of the Woods family, the parcel was purchased for preservation in March, 2005, ensuring that Woods Landing will provide vital habitat for chum salmon into the foreseeable future.

Wood's Landing Project Celebration

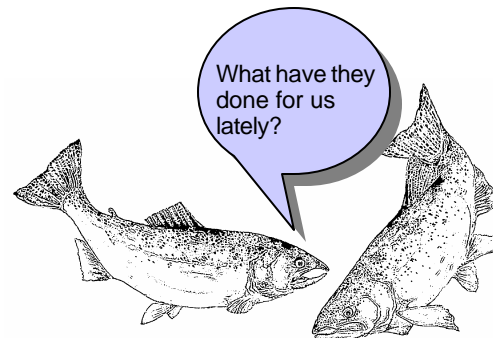
On May 20 a celebration was held at Wood's Landing along the Columbia River to commemorate the completion of the Columbia Grove and Wood's Landing preservation project. (See description under the Sammy Award's above.) The Biddle Wood family hosted the event that recognized the enormous partnership and collaboration that took place to preserve chum spawning grounds.

Representatives from federal, state and local government were on hand as well Nez Perce tribe members and many individual salmon and habitat protection agencies.

The Wood family wanted to show appreciation to all individuals who were able to make this project successful. Over 200 individuals, agencies and organizations were listed at partners in the event program. All representatives were honored by the Wood family with a certificate. Artist and family member, Mardi Wood, presented representatives with a hand-made ceramic pendant. The pendant, a chum tooth replica, contains sand from the Wood's Landing site.

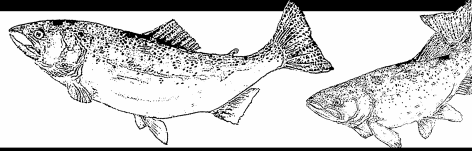
At the event, the Wood family renamed the family parcel in honor of their father: *The Erskine Biddle Wood Salmon Sanctuary*.

ESA Program Update



This is what the ESA staff has been up to recently:

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➡ Staff and the Critical Areas Ordinance stakeholders group met to discuss folding the process of implementing the ESA Advisory Committee's recommendations into the critical areas ordinances review and upgrade project. The last meeting for this group will be June 20.

➡ The BOCC and staff discussed the watershed plan submitted by the Planning Unit for Water Resource Inventory Areas 27 and 28. Adoption of the plan would impose a set of obligations on state and local agencies. Next steps required by state law include holding a public hearing to get public comments on the plan. After that the BOCC's from all affected counties will get together to either adopt the plan or remand it to the planning unit. The board agreed to schedule a public hearing on July 5th at 10:00 a.m.

➡ Come join the fun at the Clark County Fair! In between visiting the animal petting zoo, riding The Octopus, and getting a Dairy Women's milkshake be sure to come see us at our fair booth. Kids can play a fun computer game where they get to save salmon and adults can find information about ESA or from our booth partners, Watershed Stewards.

➡ **Breaking news about our web site!** Thanks to a new service from CVTV, you can now view videos of the Sammy Award winners from our web site. Just go to www.saveoursalmon.com and click on Sammy Awards then select which video you want to watch.

Clark County Fair, August 5-14 at the Clark County Fairgrounds, 17402 NE Delfel Road, Ridgefield
Contact: (360) 397-6180 or visit www.clarkcofair.com

Community Wormshop, 10-1, Saturday, June 18 at Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center; 12208 SE Evergreen Hwy, Vancouver
Contact: Susan Newman at (360) 397-6118 ex. 4884

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
For meeting information, contact the LCFRB at (360) 425-1555 or visit www.LCFRB.gen.wa.us.

ESA Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 1st Wednesday of the month, Vancouver. Contact: John Tyler at (360) 397-2022 or john.tyler@clark.wa.gov

WRIA 27 & 28 Public Hearing before the Clark County Board of Commissioners, 10:00 a.m., July 5 at the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, 6th Floor, Vancouver. Contact: Joel Rupley, 397-2022 ext. 1 or joel.rupley@clark.wa.gov

Calendar Highlights

Summer Solstice Celebration, 10-4, Saturday, June 18 at Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center; 12208 SE Evergreen Hwy, Vancouver
Contact: Jane Van Dyke at (360) 882-0936 or visit info@columbiasprings.org

FOR ALTERNATIVE FORMATS

Clark County ADA Office V (360) 397-2025;
TTY (360) 397-2445; ADA@Clark.wa.gov

